

# Gator Bytes

www.watergatelyachtclub.org

Watergate Yacht Club  
Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 1  
February 2009

## Greetings Watergators!

It's hard to believe that 2008 is now history, and we will soon embark on a new boating season. All of you have helped make the past seasons successful ones for your yacht club, and for that, we thank you very much.

The boating season of 2008 saw a slight decline in the number of club members, dropping from 73 in 2007 to 63 in 2008. Given the increase in expenses, especially in fuel cost, that decline is certainly understandable. We ask for your help in inviting your "neighbor boaters" to become club members so that we can increase our membership total for 2009.

Fortunately, the cost of membership has not increased – it is still \$25.00 per year, and if your membership dues are paid by June 1, 2009, you will again receive a free WYC tee shirt. The fees paid for membership do not only go for food purchases, but also provide funds for event prizes (gift certificates, membership certificates, tee shirts) and equipment purchases. We also have many prizes donated by individuals and businesses. All of our WYC members are eligible to win these prizes at various events. At last year's poker run, Bob Mason (Hey Jude, D dock) was the lucky winner of a handheld VHF radio. A list of prize contributors is located in the shipstore boaters' lounge. Be sure to thank these people for their contributions when doing business with them.

Your Board did take the month of January off, but prior to that had the 2009 schedule of events and the newsletter well on track. Be sure to read VP Dave Ruzicka's synopsis of past and upcoming calendar of events. Thanks, Dave. I also wish to thank all of the Board and Committee members for all of their great work and support.

In November, the WYC Board elected the following members to the WYC Board: Teresa Moon (H-14, Crystal Moon) and Larry Martin (D-11, WyLaWay); and also named Diane Pilant (J-11, It's a Keeper) as the coordinator of the WYC website. If you would like to submit something for the website, please contact Diane at [www.watergatelyachtclub.org/Contact Us/](http://www.watergatelyachtclub.org/Contact Us/) and click on the link for Diane.

## WYC Board Members

If you have any questions regarding WYC, please contact any of the following board members:

- Freeman Brooks, Commodore (Cobra's Den, K-7)
- Virg Amsden, President (Manhattan Madnes, E-18)
- Dave Ruzicka, Vice President (Jordaliya, K-5)
- Jim Gaul, Treasurer (SeaGaul 7, H-13)
- Deb Distad, Secretary (Temptation, J-8)
- Kathy Mohn, Social Co-Chair (Lady Kate, K-1)
- Chris Schmitz, Social Co-Chair (Somarhom, J-9)
- Dan Dickinson (Magnolia Blossom)
- Tom Dinsmore (Dr. Jekyll, K-16)
- Jim Hillman (The Real World)
- Gretel Keene (LaVedette, C-10)
- Larry Martin (WyLaWay, D-11)
- Teresa Moon (Crystal Moon, H-14)

### WYC Website:

- Michelle Olson (Willy B II)
- Diane Pilant (It's a Keeper, J-11)

Please check the dock information boards often for any new information or updates on events.

In the meantime, here's hoping that we have an early spring and a safe and fun-filled boating season.

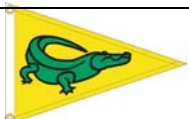
Sincerely,  
Virg Amsden, President, WYC

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## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Watergate Yacht Club is to promote safe and enjoyable boating on the Mississippi River to those with dockage at Watergate Marina in St. Paul. As a nonprofit organization, each member will support the management and the City of St. Paul in their efforts to provide a marina service to the boaters at Watergate.





# 2009 Calendar of Events

## Greetings, Fellow Boaters!

It appears this winter is looking like the **old days**. “**Cold and Lots of Snow.**” Well, once again the board members of WYC have been busy planning and structuring events for the 2009 year. Below I have listed a brief description of the events we have planned for this year.

**Saturday Mar 28 8:00 – 5:00  
Sunday Mar 29 1-3 (if needed)  
DNR Boat Safety Class  
And Certification**

**Boating Safety Class** - This is a popular MN DNR class offered to Watergate Marina boaters. This class is not only boating safety, but is also structured to boating **safely** on the river. Lots of good information! There is limited space, so sign up early. For more information contact Jim Hillman 651-433-3364 or (cell) 612-770-7151.

**Saturday April 18  
Adopt-A-River Clean Up  
11:00 to 2:00  
Pot luck at 3:00**

**Adopt-A-River Cleanup** - In cooperation with the MN DNR, WYC has adopted one mile of river (½ mile on each side). We walk the river shoreline to pick up trash and debris that does harm to the river and the environment. This makes the river a better place to boat and shows the efforts of your yacht club to improve our boating area. This is a great way to get out in the spring to enjoy new and old friends. For more details, contact Virg Amsden 651-699-3429.

**Friday May 15  
General Meeting on the  
Magnolia Blossom  
6:00 pm**

**General WYC Meeting** - As last year, we are planning to have our spring WYC General Membership Meeting on the Magnolia Blossom. This is a great time to renew your WYC membership, if you have not already done so. “*Good deal at only \$ 25.00!*” If you’re new boaters to the marina, you are invited to join us to find out more about the yacht club and meet fellow boaters. Snacks and cash bar available. For more information contact Virg Amsden 651-699-3429.

**Saturday June 20  
Progressive Dock Party  
and P♥KER RUN  
5:00 pm**

**Progressive Dock Party** - Most of our members will agree this is one of our most fun events! This is the way it works: each dock (ABC, DE, FG, HI, J, and KL) chooses a party theme; each dock then serves a beverage and hors d’oeuvres to go with their theme. We spend 30 minutes at each dock before moving on to the next dock. Now, to make this a little more fun and interesting, we are including a **P♥KER RUN** with a great prize for the winner! For more information contact Chris Schmitz 651-755-7197 or Kathy Mohn 952-210-7593.

**Saturday July 11  
BBQ Fest AND  
Family Fun Day**

**Barbeque Fest** - If you enjoy barbeque, then this event is for you. With this delicious barbeque and our famous fixings, no one goes away hungry. We will have games for the kids and grandkids. There will be lots of fun and food for everyone. For more information contact Virg Amsden 651-699-3429.



## 2009 CALENDAR CONTINUED

**Saturday August 1  
Trek to Treasure Island**

**Trek to Treasure Island** - This is really a fun event and a good trip for those that are new to the river, because boaters can plan to travel together. Navigating through Lock #2 at Hastings is a new experience for many of our club members. This can be a fun and exciting experience, and is much easier and safer with the company of other club members who have made this trip in the past. The trip normally takes from four to seven hours, depending on the wait time at the lock and the speed of your boat. Saturday evening we have potluck and a lot of good prizes to give away. Last year we missed Bill's fried catfish. Hope you make it this year, Bill! We are limited to a block of 20 slips at TI, So if you want to go, sign up early. Contact Virg 651-699-3429.

**Saturday August 22  
Lunch at the  
Riverboat Grill  
10:00 am**

**River Boat Grill - Lunch** – For those not familiar with the RBG, this is a floating tugboat that has been converted into a restaurant, and is moored at the public dock at Harriet Island. On this Saturday morning, we get together on several boats and head on down the river to RBG. You can take your own boat or ride with others on their boat. (If traveling by boat won't fit your schedule, we welcome anyone who makes the trip by land!) This is great way to get to know your fellow boaters. We always have a great turn-out. For more information contact Chris Schmitz 651-755-7197 or Kathy Mohn 952-210-7593.

**Saturday September 19  
Chili Cook-off Contest  
4:00 pm**

**Chili Cook Off** – Do you have a favorite chili recipe? If so, cook it up and enter it in our Chili Cook Off. We welcome all varieties. You may win a prize – or, if you just like chili, there are always a lot of delicious flavors to try. So come and join us for a good time. Contact Chris Schmitz 651-755-7197.

**Sunday October 11  
General Meeting and  
Fall Finale on the  
Magnolia Blossom  
1:00 – 4:00**

**General Meeting / Fall Finale** – As the season comes to an end, we incorporate the fall WYC General Meeting with a fun boat ride on the Magnolia Blossom. Once again, we have a multitude of great food and great friends to enjoy. Contact Virg Amsden 651-699-3429.

As always, we will have a busy summer. With that said, remember to renew or join the WYC before June 1 to receive your free WYC tee shirt. Hope to see all of you on the water this summer.

**HAPPY BOATING  
Dave Ruzicka  
Vice President, WYC**



## NOTES FROM WATERGATE MARINA

Ahoy, Fellow Boaters,

Well, I made it through my first summer as your new marina manager. If I haven't already had the chance to introduce myself to you, please stop by and say "hi". If we've already met, stop by anyhow! We are continuing to clean up and organize the yard to improve the appearance and make your boating experience at Watergate even more pleasant. I am always open to hearing your comments and/or suggestions.



We have another big change at Watergate, that is the recent hiring of J.P. Lindrud as the new service dept. manager. J.P. comes with 20 years experience in the marine industry and he is looking forward to taking our service dept. to the next level. If you need any work done to your boat, now is the time to stop by and discuss your requests with J.P., so your boat is ready to go this spring.

Also, remember that all remaining slip and storage fees for the 2009 season are due March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

Well, I hope you had a safe and happy winter. We at Watergate look forward to serving you this summer and many more.

Ken Johnson  
Watergate Marina Manager  
Office phone: 651-695-3780

The Sales Department is continuing to see strong interest and boats are moving! Contact Jason to list your boat! Looking to buy? Great deals to be had! Financing, extended warranties, and slips still available! Know someone looking to move up or down, let me know! [jason@watergatemarina.net](mailto:jason@watergatemarina.net)

Until the next time, hope for a quick end to winter!

**Jason Oliver - Watergate Marine Sales**  
See our complete list at [www.watergatemarina.net](http://www.watergatemarina.net)  
Office phone: 651-695-3780  
Email: [jason@watergatemarina.net](mailto:jason@watergatemarina.net)

### SPECIAL INVITATION FROM LILYDALE P&Y CLUB

The Lilydale Pool and Yacht Club will be having an "Ice Breaker" event  
The clubhouse and bar have been remodeled.

Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup>

Complimentary appetizers and wine from 2 pm to 4 pm,

Drawing for a free 1 year membership, along with a one time special offer  
exclusive to the members of Watergate Marina.

Please RSVP by calling 651-455-3900



GATOR BYTES

**DNR BOATING SAFETY CLASS AND CERTIFICATION**



Are you new to boating? Whether you are an experienced boater or a novice, it is important to maintain up-to-date training on all boating aspects - including equipment, regulations, safety concerns or river dynamics. The certified DNR boating safety course at Watergate Marina is taught by a DNR certified safety instructor(s). It offers the most current information and training for boaters in one easy 8-hour study session. - Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm. An additional 2 hours (1:00 to 3:00) is available on Sunday, March 29, aboard the Magnolia Blossom, if it is needed.

In addition, classes will be offered at individual docks as requested. Watch the bulletin boxes at the top on each dock for further information regarding these classes. If you have any questions, call Jim Hillman at 651-433-3364.

**REMINDER**

**GENERAL MEETING**  
 May 15, 2009 6:00 pm  
 Magnolia Blossom



Membership Application	
<p>We'd love to hear what events you enjoy and what you would like to see added to the calendar. Please fill in your address and phone numbers so we can keep you informed of any/all matters of interest to you and all boaters at Watergate.</p> <p>Please send your completed form to:                      Watergate Yacht Club                      c/o Watergate Marina,                      2500 Crosby Farm Road,                      St Paul, MN 55116</p> <p>— or give it to any of the board members along with \$25.00 for dues for the 2009 boating season.</p>	<p><i>Name(s)</i> _____</p> <p><i>Address</i> _____</p> <p><i>City</i> _____ <i>State</i> _____ <i>Zip</i> _____</p> <p><i>Telephone(s)</i> _____</p> <p><i>e-mail</i> _____</p> <p><i>Dock / Slip #</i> _____ <i>Boat name</i> _____</p> <p><b>WYC Membership Dues: \$25.00</b> _____</p> <p><b>WYC T-shirt \$ 8.00</b> _____</p> <p style="padding-left: 100px;"><b>Size</b> _____</p> <p><b>Burgee \$20.00</b> _____</p> <p>Please list any suggestions for events you would like included in WYC calendar of events:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>



## VESSEL SAFETY CHECK PROGRAM

Boating is fun. Safe boating is even more fun. Tom and Gretel Keene will be promoting safe boating this spring and summer through the Vessel Safety Check program.

The Vessel Safety Check is a complementary check of your boat (Vessel) conducted by members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary or United States Power Squadron, confirming that it meets both Federal and State requirements for safety. They will make recommendations and discuss safety issues that will make you a safer boater. A copy of the evaluation will be given to you. No citation will be given. This is not a boarding or a law enforcement issue.

An example of some of the items checked include: Life Jackets, Registration and Numbering, Navigation Lights, Ventilation, Fire Extinguishers, Distress Signals, Battery Cover and Connections.

To register for a Vessel Safety Check, complete the sign-up sheet at Watergate Marina's shipstore or contact:

[GretelKeene@comcast.net](mailto:GretelKeene@comcast.net)

(612) 387-0112

For more information go to <http://www.safetyseal.net/>

Watergate Yacht Club  
At Watergate Marina  
2500 Crosby Farm Road  
St. Paul, MN 55116



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